

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-8 (Canceled)

Claim 9 (Previously Presented)      A coating apparatus comprising:

    a first roll for contacting with continuously traveling base paper either directly or through a second roll;

    a cylindrical rod having an uneven outer peripheral surface formed by blasting said outer peripheral surface of said rod and a coating layer formed on said uneven outer peripheral surface of said rod, said coating layer having the property of releasing a coating liquid, and said rod being disposed parallel to said first roll, engaging with said first roll and rotatable; and

    a coating-liquid supply supplying the coating liquid to a nip surface portion between said first roll and said rod on which said coating layer is formed;

    wherein the coating liquid can be supplied from the coating-liquid supply to form a film of coating liquid on an outer peripheral surface of said first roll, the thickness of the film of coating liquid can be adjusted at the nip surface portion, and the film of coating liquid having its thickness adjusted can be transferred from said first roll onto a surface of the base paper either directly or through the second roll.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented)      The coating apparatus of claim 9, wherein said coating layer is formed from silicon resin.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented)      The coating apparatus of claim 9, wherein said coating layer is formed from fluorine-containing resin.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented)      The coating apparatus of claim 9, wherein said coating layer is a plating layer having the property of releasing a coating liquid.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented) The coating apparatus of claim 9, and further comprising a rod holder disposed parallel to said first roll for supporting said cylindrical rod, said rod holder comprising:

- a supporting hole having a lubricating liquid and said cylindrical rod rotatably fitted in the lubricating liquid, said supporting hole having an opening confronting the outer surface of said first roll, and a part of said coating layer formed on said cylindrical rod being exposed through said opening;

- a recess on a side of said rod holder opposite to said supporting hole such that said rod holder is constricted between said supporting hole and said recess; and
- an expandable tube fitted in said recess.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented) A coating apparatus comprising:

- a first roll for contacting with continuously traveling base paper either directly or through a second roll;

- a cylindrical rod having an uneven outer peripheral surface formed by blasting said outer peripheral surface of said rod, said rod being disposed parallel to said first roll, engaging with said first roll and supported by a rod holder such that said cylindrical rod can rotate; and

- a coating-liquid supply supplying the coating liquid to a nip surface portion between said first roll and said rod;

- wherein the coating liquid can be supplied from the coating-liquid supply to form a film of coating liquid on an outer peripheral surface of said first roll, the thickness of the film of coating liquid can be adjusted at the nip surface portion, and the film of coating liquid having its thickness adjusted can be transferred from said first roll onto a surface of the base paper either directly or through the second roll; and

- wherein said rod holder is disposed parallel to said first roll for supporting said cylindrical rod, said rod holder comprising:

- a supporting hole having a lubricating liquid and said cylindrical rod rotatably fitted in the lubricating liquid, said supporting hole having an opening confronting the outer surface of said

first roll, and a part of said uneven outer peripheral surface formed on said cylindrical rod being exposed through said opening;

a recess on a side of said rod holder opposite to said supporting hole such that said rod holder is constricted between said supporting hole and said recess; and  
an expandable tube fitted in said recess.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented)      A coating apparatus comprising:

a first roll for contacting with continuously traveling base paper either directly or through a second roll;

a cylindrical rod having an outer peripheral surface with a fine unevenness formed by melting and jetting a ceramic material to said outer peripheral surface of said rod and a coating layer formed on said outer peripheral surface with fine unevenness of said rod, said coating layer having the property of releasing a coating liquid, and said rod being disposed parallel to said first roll, engaging with said first roll and rotatable; and

a coating-liquid supply supplying the coating liquid to a nip surface portion between said first roll and said rod on which said coating layer is formed;

wherein the coating liquid can be supplied from the coating-liquid supply to form a film of coating liquid on an outer peripheral surface of said first roll, the thickness of the film of coating liquid can be adjusted at the nip surface portion, and the film of coating liquid having its thickness adjusted can be transferred from said first roll onto a surface of the base paper either directly or through the second roll.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented)      The coating apparatus of claim 15, wherein said coating layer is formed from silicon resin.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented)      The coating apparatus of claim 15, wherein said coating layer is formed from fluorine-containing resin.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented)      The coating apparatus of claim 15, wherein said coating layer is a plating layer having the property of releasing a coating liquid.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented)      The coating apparatus of claim 15, and further comprising a rod holder disposed parallel to said first roll for supporting said cylindrical rod, said rod holder comprising:

    a supporting hole having a lubricating liquid and said cylindrical rod rotatably fitted in the lubricating liquid, said supporting hole having an opening confronting the outer surface of said first roll, and a part of said coating layer formed on said cylindrical rod being exposed through said opening;

    a recess on a side of said rod holder opposite to said supporting hole such that said rod holder is constricted between said supporting hole and said recess; and  
    an expandable tube fitted in said recess.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented)      A coating apparatus comprising:

    a first roll for contacting with continuously traveling base paper either directly or through a second roll;

    a cylindrical rod having an outer peripheral surface with a fine unevenness formed by melting and jetting a ceramic material to said outer peripheral surface of said rod, said rod being disposed parallel to said first roll, engaging with said first roll and supported by a rod holder such that said cylindrical rod can rotate; and

    a coating-liquid supply supplying the coating liquid to a nip surface portion between said first roll and said rod;

    wherein the coating liquid can be supplied from the coating-liquid supply to form a film of coating liquid on an outer peripheral surface of said first roll, the thickness of the film of coating liquid can be adjusted at the nip surface portion, and the film of coating liquid having its thickness adjusted can be transferred from said first roll onto a surface of the base paper either directly or through the second roll; and

wherein said rod holder is disposed parallel to said first roll for supporting said cylindrical rod, said rod holder comprising:

a supporting hole having a lubricating liquid and said cylindrical rod rotatably fitted in the lubricating liquid, said supporting hole having an opening confronting the outer surface of said first roll, and a part of said outer peripheral surface with a fine unevenness formed on said cylindrical rod being exposed through said opening;

a recess on a side of said rod holder opposite to said supporting hole such that said rod holder is constricted between said supporting hole and said recess; and

an expandable tube fitted in said recess.

Claim 21 (New)      A coating apparatus comprising:

a first roll that contacts with base paper traveling continuously, directly or through a second roll;

a cylindrical rod with an outer peripheral surface which is disposed parallel to said first roll and also engages with said first roll and rotates in a predetermined direction;

a coating layer, formed on the outer peripheral surface of said rod, which has the property of releasing a coating liquid; and

coating-liquid supply means for supplying said coating liquid to a nip surface portion between said first roll and said rod in said predetermined direction;

wherein said coating liquid supplied from said coating-liquid supply means forms a film of coating liquid on the outer peripheral surface of said first roll, and after a thickness of said coating-liquid film is adjusted at said nip surface portion, the thickness-adjusted film is transferred from said first roll onto a surface of said base paper directly, or indirectly through said second roll.